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EIGHTH YEAR — No. 87

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INTERNATIONAL REVIEW OF THE RED CROSS

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The French edition of this Review is issued every month under the title of *Revue internationale de la Croix-Rouge*. It is, in principle, identical to the English edition and may be obtained under the same conditions.

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SUPPLEMENTS TO THE REVIEW

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SPANISH

F. Siordet: Cruz Roja y Derechos humanos (I).

L. Boissier: Los silencios del Comité internacional de la Cruz Roja.

GERMAN

F. Siordet: Das Rote Kreuz und die Menschenrechte (I).

L. Boissier: Das Schweigen des Internationalen Komitees vom Roten Kreuz.

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THE RED CROSS AS A FACTOR OF PEACE

by J. Patrnoic

In its number of November 1967, the International Review published an article on the work of the Round Table devoted to the relations between the Red Cross and Peace which was organized by the ICRC in The Hague in August 1967. Basing himself on the discussions at that meeting, at which he was a participant, and also on his own experience and reflections, Professor Jovica Patrnoic, has attempted in a recent study to present in a systematic manner the various aspects of Red Cross activity in favour of peace.

We now have pleasure in producing this study which we consider to be a valuable contribution to the general examination of the theme "The Red Cross, as a Factor in World Peace"¹. This theme which is increasingly preoccupying the great movement, created from Henry Dunant's thinking, will be precisely the subject of discussion at a second Round Table which will meet this September. With this end in view, the ICRC sent a detailed report in May on the work of the first meeting at The Hague to all National Red Cross Societies. We will have occasion to publish some passages of this report which on many points extends and completes the present study. (Ed.)

There is no doubt or dilemma, today, that peace is one of the basic aims of the Red Cross. Efforts and strivings to reach this aim are obvious from numerous resolutions of the International conferences and other bodies of the International Red Cross. Also, peace has been stressed as an aim of the Red Cross action within the framework of the first principle of the Red Cross and is clearly connected with that principle.

¹ The ideas expressed therein naturally only engage the author.

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However, much as we verbally agree that the Red Cross strives for peace, it seems to us neither that its contribution to peace has been thoroughly examined, nor that everything that the Red Cross as a whole can do in this direction has been fully put to use. The maintenance or re-establishment of peace are such important tasks that all the world's efforts should be directed to that end. The Red Cross, no doubt, can and ought to play a role in these efforts.

The initiative given by the International Committee of the Red Cross that the role of the Red Cross as a factor of peace should be discussed was welcome. In this instance, the ICRC has acted as a guardian of the Red Cross principles.

A number of persons, from several national societies, have started seriously and systematically to consider this problem at a Round Table meeting.¹

The time has come to consider what further aims and ways should be put to consideration. The aim of the Round Table talks could be twofold. On the one hand, it could consider in detail the Red Cross' contribution to peace, it could analyze the forms of such contribution, draft a document which would shed light on the problem as a whole. On the other hand, and that is my opinion, the Round Table should draft a resolution to be submitted to the XXI International Conference of the Red Cross. Numerous resolutions dealing with peace, adopted by International Red Cross Conferences as well as by other bodies (The Council of Delegates, The Board of Governors of the League) are incomplete in their contents; they deal only with some aspects of the problem "the Red Cross and peace", or they simply repeat generally known attitudes to that problem. What is missing is a resolution or some other act, perhaps a declaration, which will systematically and succinctly deal with all basic elements that serve to define the attitude of the Red Cross towards peace, all main sectors of activities and all aspects of the problem. On that basis, englobing all former resolutions, the new one should fix the stand taken by the International Red Cross as a whole, as well as that taken by its constituent parts. The discussion held at the Round Table meeting, as well as at other meetings, should point to the basic problems, shed light

¹ See *International Review of the Red Cross*, November 1967.

on them from various standpoints, make clear the points of controversy, even through a confrontation of views, in order to reach unanimity or, if that is not possible, general consent. That is the least requirement for the drafting of such a resolution.

It would be useful to enumerate, without pretending to be exhaustive, some themes that fall within the framework of the problem of the Red Cross as a factor of peace.

First theme:

The Geneva Conventions and peace

Indubitably, we can view the part of the Red Cross as a factor of peace, its contribution to peace, primarily through the Geneva Conventions, which were created thanks to the Red Cross, and which contain the very doctrine of the Red Cross. Therefore, this theme deserves our full attention.

The Geneva Conventions should be considered as a specific kind of protest against war. The Conventions regulate the protection of some basic human rights. War is a negation of the rights of a human being, so fixing of obligations contained in the Conventions, the detailed regulation of the protection of elementary human rights for such large categories of people, as it is done in the Conventions, represents something that stands against the conception of the annihilation of humans.

The Geneva Conventions do not impede the struggle for peace. The opinion exists, although not very widespread, according to which the Geneva Conventions hamper the struggle for peace, because they tolerate the existence of war and only tend to regulate it, to channel it, to "humanize" it to a certain extent. According to that view, the Conventions, their very existence and propagation in time of peace—create a war psychosis.

Although such views are clearly untenable, we ought to oppose them actively, to prove their falseness.

The practical contribution to peace achieved through activities based on the Conventions is considerable. The cooperation of national societies can be practised on a wide plan; it is precisely in time of war, while the combats continue, that National Societies,

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often from opposing camps, cooperate in solving immediate practical questions. Such contacts point to the possibility of international cooperation during the course of an armed conflict, they point to the common interests of the warring parties to a conflict at that moment. This certainly represents an element which facilitates the restoration of mutual confidence and paves the way to the establishment of peace.

The traditional, manifold and versatile activity of the ICRC is carrying through specific tasks based on the Geneva Conventions or, in the absence of Protecting Powers, by undertaking certain humanitarian tasks normally devolving on those Powers. The accomplishment of these various functions without doubt makes an important contribution . . . to the application of the Conventions and one of the important elements in the evaluation of the part of the Red Cross as a factor of peace.

Practice has shown, however, as for instance in the period following the Middle East 1967 cease-fire, that the League can carry through certain activities to the benefit of the victims of war, and therefore its part in such actions should not be neglected.

There is another aspect of the Geneva Conventions to which often insufficient attention is paid and on which it is necessary to dwell for a while.

The Geneva Conventions are a part of the system of the protection of human rights. In this International Year for Human Rights it is necessary to bear in mind that the Geneva Conventions are a constituent part of the universal legal system regulating the protection of elementary human rights. They are, to be precise, an instrument for the protection of human rights which is defined both regarding the situation in which it is applied and regarding the persons it covers, so with regard to the rights it regulates. However, this very limitation, this concentration upon specific rights, makes the Conventions very elaborate documents, a very developed legal code of basic human rights in situations where people are exposed to specific dangers and sufferings. By regulating one sector of the international protection of human rights, and the most delicate one—for the violations of human rights in time of war have most severe consequences—the Geneva Conventions fit into a general system of human rights. That system is still only in the

making but certain of its parts, such as the Geneva Conventions, are already quite elaborate.

There are in existence, nowadays, some general instruments for the protection of all basic human rights; these are the two Covenants, relative to human rights approved by the UN General Assembly in December 1966. However, they are brief, do not go into detail in regulating specific rights. In this respect we should examine the regulation between these general instruments and the specific instruments, made for special situations, as for instance the Geneva Conventions.

It is of paramount importance to understand that the maintenance of peace and respect of human rights stand in very close connection; it is equally obvious that massive and serious infringement of human rights stand in close connection with the breaches of peace.

While we view the Geneva Conventions as an instrument of protection of human rights, we cannot disregard the fact that these Conventions are incomplete in many respects; therefore, the need to eliminate these deficiencies, to complete the Conventions in order that they may become more effective, is self-evident. Hence, the endeavours to find out the shortcomings and to remedy the deficiencies, as well as endeavours to further elaborate the Geneva Conventions, represent a specific contribution to peace. Within the framework of the problems of the Geneva Conventions, the struggle for their strict observance is of the greatest importance. The fight against breaches of the Conventions, pointing to such breaches, demands for their observance, also contribute to the maintenance of peace; by mobilizing the appropriate factors and public opinion in the struggle against violation of the Conventions, we strive for the full implementation of the Conventions as an instrument of protection of human rights and a protest against war.

Second theme:

The development of rules of international humanitarian law

These rules cover certainly the Geneva Conventions, which are popularly known as Geneva Rules, but they are not limited to that.

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The concept is ever more accepted that international humanitarian law covers basic human rights in all kinds of situations, in times of peace as well as in times of war, and that they center upon the application of the principle of humanity. In accordance with this, it is obvious that these rules, thus conceived, demand to be treated separately, as a separate discipline of law, as Humanitarian Law, which is of paramount importance for the Red Cross. It is understandable that studies in this direction have been indicated and conducted precisely within the Red Cross, and that even some theoretical analyses have been done. Therefore, competent bodies of the International Red Cross should give some thought to a definition of this law and they ought to influence its development and application. In addition to the Geneva Conventions, a considerable part of that law remains within the realm of the immediate interest of the Red Cross. On the other hand, it concerns problems arising from armed conflicts. Primarily, it calls for a struggle to establish the full values of the rules of international law on the protection of the civil population from indiscriminate warfare, then, the uses of humanitarian law for the protection of victims of internal conflicts. In addition to these, a number of other questions can be cited, which fall both within and outside the framework of the Geneva Conventions. That entire realm is a field for activities which, through the struggle for men, for human values, represents a protest against war and a policy of total annihilation of the population, a protest against aggression. In this respect, these efforts can be treated as a part of general endeavours of the international community to outlaw, or at least check, the use of force as a means of solving disputes.

On the other hand, this law, in its widest extent, regulates numerous problems of the protection of human rights in times of peace. In this connection, the Red Cross should direct itself to the consideration of some of the basic acts in this field, such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Declaration of Rights of the Child, the Declaration of Granting Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, the Declaration on Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination, as well as some conventions within the realm of human rights, and especially the Covenants of which mention has already been made. These acts, which contribute to the

struggle for peace and for a new international order which is to ensure peace, also regulate the rights for which the Red Cross stands; the Red Cross must examine what part it is to play and what place it is to occupy in that framework.

Third theme:

The Red Cross and Politics

It is often said that the Red Cross is non-political, that it must not engage in politics. It is often forgotten, though, that sometimes one can hardly draw a clear line delimiting the political and non-political aspects of a case, and that diverging opinions in any given case may exist. It should also not be overlooked, for example in connection with relief actions on the international level, that it fairly often happens that a National Society, whilst carrying out a task in accordance with the movement's fundamental principles, finds itself at the same time contributing towards the realization of some governmental political action. The main task is not to draw the line which the Red Cross must not overstep, because the field beyond is "political"; it is essential that the Red Cross should clearly define its aims and methods of work, that it should endeavour to achieve these aims and to adhere to principles established, regardless of whether a subject is political, according to some, or non-political according to others.

Fourth theme:

The Principles of the Red Cross

In its fight for peace the Red Cross must stick to its principles, which have been adopted and solemnly proclaimed at the XX International Conference. It may be said, however, that these principles have not been adequately examined from the standpoint of the struggle for peace. Many of these principles are certainly of great importance for the strengthening of the foundations of world peace, and they make it possible that specific Red Cross actions which directly serve peace can be taken. All this should be examined more closely.

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In addition to the study of the relations between the principles of the Red Cross and peace as such, it is necessary to increase our efforts to the effect that these principles should be observed. They also ought to be spread and disseminated by all means. In this way the Red Cross will give its specific contribution to peace.

Fifth theme:

International relief actions

Without disparaging other activities of the Red Cross, it may be said that international relief actions are an outstanding example of how the Red Cross specifically serves peace. These actions help to develop cooperation among nations on a very wide scale. On the basis of the rules that the Red Cross has developed in its practice, a work has evolved which contributes to international understanding and solidarity more than many other activities. These actions facilitate the mobilization of large masses of the population in extending aid and relief. All this ought to be borne in mind when principles and rules of international relief actions are elaborated for the next International Conference.

Sixth theme:

Aid to developing countries

There is no doubt that help and assistance to developing countries constitutes a program of action contributing to peace. This is true in all sectors of international life and, hence, it is true for the Red Cross as well. In this respect the Red Cross does not lag behind many other bodies: in addition to the special development program of the League, the developing countries are given assistance in various other ways so that the policy of helping these countries is reflected in almost all activities of the Red Cross. This is not only direct help but also a general course of orienting Red Cross activities in those directions which especially suit the developing countries, countries which are newly independent from colonial slavery and which are backward.

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In view of the importance of this activity, in view of the fact that it is reflected and ought to be reflected in all other fields of Red Cross work, and taking into account that this is a long term task, it may be useful to introduce some new institutional solutions into the organizational set-up of the International Red Cross, perhaps through the creation of some permanent advisory body which would concern itself with this problem.

Seventh theme:

Strengthening of ties among National Societies

The ties among National Societies are very close. They spread out in all sectors of Red Cross activities and they are practiced not only by the means of contacts of central bodies but also through contacts of local bodies of neighbouring countries. Still, we think that the ties should be further strengthened and directed so that they should contribute maximally to friendship and peace. In the first place, it is desirable that the contacts should be established more often, that they should become more numerous, and to include a greater number of individuals. It is especially necessary to strengthen ties through joint work; National Societies should work jointly on certain tasks. In that respect, regional conferences should be encouraged.

It is possible to do much more in this field than hitherto, particularly among newly created societies. While most old developed National Societies have their international ties and contacts very ramified, there are many new Societies whose foreign contacts are almost non-existent. One of the reasons of this is the lack of means, but this is not the only reason to which inadequate foreign relations of developing countries should be attributed; many unexplored possibilities still exist and all opportunities should be used to establish and promote contacts and cooperation among National Societies.

It is of paramount importance that ties among National Societies should develop on the basis of the principle of universality. It is understandable that each Society's foreign ties are particularly close with those of neighbouring countries, and one cannot expect from each country to maintain permanent contacts with all other

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countries, for this is clearly impossible in view of distance, expenses, etc. It is essential, however, that foreign relations should be universal *in principle*, not depending and not limited to a specific group of countries if such limitations adversely affect relations with countries outside the group. All opportunities should be used for the spreading of contacts with all National Societies. That is the application of one of the essential principles of the Red Cross.

In addition to cooperation in time of peace the possibilities of cooperation in time of war ought to be examined. Ties between neutral countries and those taking part in an armed conflict, as well as between neutral countries, are obviously possible and desirable, and most tasks can be carried through these channels. Direct contacts between National Societies of conflicting countries are obviously very difficult to establish and maintain for all National Societies naturally tend to respect the policies of their respective governments. Relations between such societies are usually maintained through the mediation of a national or international Red Cross body accepted by all parties to the conflict.

However, the possibility of direct contacts between National Societies of warring countries should not be completely neglected. Here, the ICRC could play a major part. That part could also be played by National Societies not belonging to any of the blocks. Taking into consideration the provisions of the Geneva Conventions concerning the activity of National Societies, and bearing in mind especially some experiences dating from the period after World War II, it may be concluded that serious consideration should be given to the problem of cooperation between National Societies in time of war. Following up detailed analyses, concrete proposals may be drafted. The Geneva Conventions do not contain explicit provisions concerning such cooperation, but this does not mean that the Red Cross cannot adopt rules in the spirit of the Conventions.

Eighth theme:

Publicity and information

The conviction that the peoples are interdependent, that they have common aims, that the activities of the Red Cross are a

contribution to peace, certainly does exist. However, there is a feeling that the means of publicity and information are not sufficiently used to maintain, develop, spread this conviction and to hand it over to the coming generations. In this respect it is necessary and possible to increase the efforts of National Societies with the assistance of the League and the ICRC.

In this field, too, all aid should be given to newly created National Societies, technical and other assistance necessary so that they may develop their information and publicity services which, through their activities, shall be in the service of peace.

Publicity and information ought to mobilize not only the membership of the Red Cross but also to attract children, youth, all men of good faith, for the realization of the aims of the Red Cross. This is a complicated and delicate task, especially from the aspect of the Red Cross relation to peace. Impartial analyses are desirable in this field of activity.

Ninth theme:

Connections with other organizations

There is a great number of international and national organizations, both governmental and non-governmental in character, with which the Red Cross cooperates. There are common points of interest, problems, some identical or similar principles and aims. With these organizations cooperation ought to be strengthened; the struggle for such common principles, if these can be considered as a foundation of peace is a contribution to peace. A survey of the existing ties might perhaps discover some unexploited possibilities to establish new contacts or to strengthen the existing relations.

The question of permanent and systematic cooperation between the Red Cross and the United Nations should be seriously considered. It is of vital importance that all United Nations member countries should be fully acquainted with efforts of the Red Cross to maintain peace. This will be an opportunity to enlist the support of the paramount world organization for Red Cross activities. We believe that the moment has come when the question of sending a permanent delegate of the International Red Cross should be

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considered. Such a delegate would contribute towards a concretization of ties between the United Nations and the Red Cross.

*

The question of the contribution of the Red Cross to peace, of its part as a factor of peace, is certainly a very complex and delicate one. There are many aspects of that question and none should be neglected. I have mentioned only a few themes which, I believe, can serve as starting points for the study of that problem.

Coming back to the idea that, after adequate study and discussion, we should prepare the elements for a resolution or declaration on peace, may I suggest that such an act should contain the following elements:

A. Peace is one of the basic aims of the Red Cross. There is a conviction about that which has been expressed in many resolutions of various bodies of the International Red Cross.

B. The contribution of the Red Cross to peace, direct and indirect: the main activities and actions through which the role of the Red Cross as a factor of peace can be seen, the elements which reflect this.

C. Future tasks: What should the Red Cross do in order to increase its contribution to the strengthening of peace in the world.

It is desirable that an open discussion about this problem of Red Cross and peace should continue. In this way the organizations of the Red Cross should pay greater attention to this problem in the current International Year for Human Rights. In this way new solutions and new ideas could arise, so that the Red Cross could concretize its part and establish its place within the framework of the general struggle for peace; the Red Cross would really increase its efforts in the materialization of this noble aim.

Prof. Dr. Jovica PATRNOGIC
General Secretary
Yugoslav Red Cross

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

APPEALS BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

For the benefit of the victims of the Nigeria-Biafra conflict

We quote below the text of an appeal launched by the ICRC, above the signature of its President, Mr. S. A. Gonard, to the Nigerian and Biafran representatives to the Peace Conference which started in Kampala on May 23, 1968.

As can be seen, the ICRC calls on both parties to the conflict to agree immediately on a number of practical humanitarian measures. These were the subject of an article in our May issue:

Now that important negotiations are starting in Kampala between the representatives of Nigeria and the secessionist Biafra region with a view to the cessation of hostilities, the International Committee of the Red Cross which, since the beginning of the conflict, has attempted to alleviate the suffering of prisoners and the civilian population, addresses a most pressing appeal to the two parties in conflict so that a number of urgent humanitarian measures be adopted.

Anxious to strengthen its work of relief, the ICRC requests the negotiators in Kampala to consider the immediate adoption of the following three proposals.

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

1) Protection of the civilian population and prisoners

Basing itself on the fundamental humanitarian principles and the spirit of the Geneva Conventions, the International Committee of the Red Cross requests the belligerents to take all the necessary measures, in particular, by giving very precise and strict instructions to the armed forces opposed to each other, with a view to sparing the civilian population from air attacks or from other acts against their safety, whether these are or are not in the form of reprisals. Wounded or shipwrecked military personnel as well as prisoners are equally to be protected.

The ICRC is prepared to give its support to all practical measures for the strengthening of the security of the civilian population.

2) Relief to the civilian population

As the ICRC stressed in the urgent appeal it addressed in mid-April to Red Cross Societies throughout the world and to all aid organizations, urgent action is required to assist and supply civilian populations, suffering as a result of the hostilities.

Thanks to the help it has already received, the International Committee of the Red Cross is taking measures for medicines and food, of which there is urgent need, to reach without delay all the areas afflicted by the war. So far as Biafra is concerned, however, facilities must be accorded the ICRC by the two parties opposing each other to enable transports which will be organized by the ICRC to arrive rapidly and safely. It therefore urges that, in accordance with the letter and the spirit of the Geneva Conventions, every facility be granted it and that the blockade be lifted to enable the passage of relief supplies.

3) Exchange of prisoners of war

An exchange of prisoners held on either side could very shortly take place under the auspices of the ICRC, on neighbouring neutral territory. According to custom, the International Committee of the Red Cross would willingly undertake to organize such an exchange, with the help of the armed forces of the two parties in conflict.

In formally requesting the negotiators in Kampala to adopt the above measures without delay, the International Committee of the Red Cross is not only conscious of serving the cause of suffering humanity, but also, if these proposals are adopted, of re-establishing peace in men's minds and hearts.

The ICRC delegate general for Africa went to Kampala in order to undertake any approach to the parties to the conflict which might contribute to the success of the humanitarian negotiations proposed by the ICRC.

In view of the deterioration in the situation, however, the ICRC appealed to a number of National Societies on May 24, sending them the following message which it simultaneously disseminated through the press, radio and television:

As a result of the capture of Port Harcourt, the International Committee of the Red Cross has just received a dramatic radio appeal from its delegation in Biafra. In this appeal it is stated that thousands of women, children and old people, starving and on the verge of exhaustion are moving towards the centre of the territory, fleeing combat zones. The number of these refugees is at present estimated at about six hundred thousand persons crowded into several hundred camps and schools. These persons are terrified by the war and refuse to go back to their villages for fear of losing their lives.

Already ICRC delegates have reported that they have seen many dead on the roadside. To save those hundreds of thousands of human beings it would be necessary to dispatch a minimum of 200 tons of foodstuffs a day. The means at present available to the ICRC are totally inadequate to face this situation, and the Committee is ready to organize a large scale relief operation. For this purpose it must obtain the necessary foodstuffs, means of transport (airplanes and then ships), and first and foremost the lifting of the blockade.

With this object in view the International Committee has just sent to the representatives of Nigeria and Biafra now meeting to negotiate in Kampala, a pressing appeal to lift the blockade now enforced against Biafra, to enable the Committee to send food and medicines exclusively intended for civilian populations.

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

All support offered for this endeavour will be appreciated by the ICRC. You are also requested to ask the assistance of your government to obtain relief and transport. As soon as your reply has been received the ICRC will give you all necessary indications for the dispatching of goods.

Time is getting short and the Red Cross cannot remain indifferent to such human misery.

According to ICRC delegations in Nigeria and Biafra the plight of hundreds of thousands of civilians, including women and children, is going from bad to worse.¹

It is easy to imagine the devastation caused by air-raids on population centres or by guerilla warfare in a country where the population density is so high. Dysentery, one of the most infectious of diseases has erupted and is spreading rapidly. Famine and its effects are decimating the population, especially the women and the children who have sought refuge in the bush. About a hundred children in a clearing, far from any populated area, were saved from starvation thanks to the accidental arrival of a member of the Nigerian Red Cross. How many other groups are in a similar plight?

In order to assist the Red Cross in Nigeria and Biafra, the ICRC considers it essential for personnel to be sent out there, particularly medico-social teams, equipped with the necessary means of communications and transport, to work in the most seriously affected areas.

The ICRC is endeavouring to recruit five further medico-social teams for that purpose; two for work in Biafra and three in Federal territory. To combat the ravages of the war these teams and the food and medical supplies so cruelly lacking must be found and sent out to Nigeria and Biafra without delay. As regards personnel, it has strengthened its delegations in Nigeria and Biafra, but has not so far been able to obtain the necessary help in strengthening its medico-social teams. It hopes that this help will not be refused it.

¹ *Plate.*—The ICRC gives aid to the wounded and ensures the distribution of powdered milk.

As regards relief to civilian population victims of the war in Nigeria, as already mentioned, at the end of April the ICRC sent all National Red Cross, Red Crescent, and Red Lion and Sun Societies an appeal for massive assistance in the form of foodstuffs and medical supplies for more than a million people who have fled the fighting areas in Nigeria and Biafra. On May 24th the appeal was repeated with increased stress as military operations around Port Harcourt had given rise to a new exodus of destitute refugees to the interior of Biafra which has been subjected to blockade for many months.

The ICRC issues a reminder in this respect that the Geneva Conventions, to which Nigeria is a party, make express provision for the raising of a blockade to allow the passage of consignments intended for humanitarian purposes, that is to say, for the supply of foodstuffs and medicines for women and children.

Consequently, the ICRC was pleased to note the information from the Nigerian federal government, conveyed by General Gowon to ICRC delegate Jean-René Pierroz during an interview in Lagos, that practical facilities would be granted the ICRC for the free passage of its relief consignments. ICRC delegate general Georg Hoffmann, who was on mission in Kampala, reached Lagos on June 1st in order to discuss arrangements with the federal authorities.

By May 31 only 19 National Societies¹ had responded to the ICRC's appeal, those in the forefront being Sweden, with the largest donation, Norway, the United Kingdom, Canada, Germany, Holland and Switzerland which, with government backing, made available substantial credits and donations in kind.² Total value so far is about 2 million Swiss francs, in addition to 3,000 tons of goods.

¹ i.e. Australia, Cameroon, Canada, Denmark, Ethiopia, Finland, German Federal Republic, Great Britain, India, Ireland, Kenya, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, U.S.A.

² ICRC delegate Jacques de Heller went to several Scandinavian countries and to the UK at the beginning of May to give the alert on the urgency of assisting the victims of the war in Nigeria.

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Other organisations contributing generously to the ICRC's assistance programme are UNICEF, the World Council of Churches and Oxfam.

In addition, other responses are expected, particularly from the Red Cross Societies of the USSR, the USA, Belgium and Yugoslavia.

Thanks to these donations the International Committee has already arranged fourteen flights of relief goods to Biafra and Nigeria ¹. Two of these are scheduled to reach Lagos on the 5th and 6th June, one of 24 tons and the other of 26 tons.

It is however only too obvious that nothing short of a wider opening in the blockade will permit delivery of the relief supplies. Discussions to achieve this are still going on.

This was the situation at the beginning of June.

¹ *Plate*—Medicines and vitamins for Biafra being loaded aboard an airplane.



Nigeria: The ICRC gives aid to the wounded...

Photos J. Santandréa

...and ensures the distribution of powdered milk.





Geneva: Medicines and vitamins for Biafra being loaded on aircraft.

Photos V. Markevitch.



APPLICATION OF THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS

— PARTICULARLY THE FOURTH — IN TERRITORY OCCUPIED BY ISRAEL

Since the end of the open hostilities in the Middle East the International Committee of the Red Cross has provided humanitarian assistance not only to the wounded, prisoners of war and civilian detainees, but also to civilian populations in the occupied territories West of the Jordan, in the Gaza-Sinai sector and in Kuneitra. For this purpose ICRC delegations were set up in Gaza, Jerusalem and Kuneitra. The Israeli authorities granted these delegations practical facilities to carry out their humanitarian mission, which will be continued so long as it is necessary.

However, the International Committee of the Red Cross deemed it expedient to draw the attention of the governments involved in the conflict to the disadvantages of there being no Protecting Power to ensure the application of the Fourth Convention of 12 August, 1949.

We quote below the note sent on 4 April 1968 to the governments of Israel, Syria, Jordan and the United Arab Republic.

In accordance with the provisions of the Geneva Conventions and with the agreement of the Powers concerned, the International Committee of the Red Cross has, for the past ten months, been pursuing its humanitarian action on behalf of the victims of the conflict of June 1967, through the intermediary of its delegations in the United Arab Republic, Israel, Jordan, Syria and the Lebanon, and of its sub-delegations in Jerusalem (occupied territory on the West Bank of the Jordan), Gaza (occupied territory of Gaza and the Sinai), and Kuneitra (occupied territory of the Golan Plateau).

The activities deriving from the First Convention (Protection of the sick and wounded) and the Third Convention (Treatment of Prisoners of War) having, generally speaking, been successfully

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concluded, it is essentially the application of the Fourth Convention (Protection of civilians) on which the International Committee of the Red Cross must now concentrate its efforts, chiefly in the three occupied territories above-mentioned.

When signing and ratifying the Geneva Conventions of August 12, 1949, for the protection of the victims of war, the contracting Parties undertook to respect them and to have them respected in all circumstances. It is therefore States, and States alone, which are responsible for the correct implementation of the said Conventions, each one, first of all, in the territories over which it exercises its power.

However, the Conventions themselves stipulate that the Conventions will be applied "with the co-operation and under the scrutiny of the Protecting Powers whose duty it is to safeguard the interests of the Parties to the conflict".

For reasons which have not yet been communicated to the International Committee of the Red Cross, and upon which moreover it is not for it to express an opinion, no Protecting Power has, so far, been designated in the conflict opposing Israel and the neighbouring States. This, without a doubt, constitutes a regrettable gap in the fabric of the Geneva Conventions which are based on the existence of Protecting Powers, whose action constitutes an essential guarantee of their strict observance, especially in occupied territories.

The case where any Protecting Power might be lacking, for whatever reason, has been foreseen in the Conventions. In such an eventuality, the Detaining or Occupying Power shall request a neutral State, or an organization offering all guarantees of impartiality and efficacy, to assume the functions performed by Protecting Powers under the Conventions.

If, even so, such protection cannot accordingly be arranged, the Detaining Power shall request a humanitarian organization, such as the International Committee of the Red Cross, to assume the humanitarian tasks performed by Protecting Powers.

To our knowledge, the governments involved in the conflict have not requested neutral States, nor a special organization, nor even the International Committee of the Red Cross, to act as substitutes for the Protecting Powers.

This situation has not presented very serious drawbacks in the United Arab Republic, Syria, the Lebanon and Jordan where, after the repatriation of prisoners of war and of a certain number of civilians, the application of the Geneva Conventions now only concerns particular cases. On the other hand, in the territories occupied by Israel, the prolonged absence of Protecting Powers, or of their duly designated substitutes, is a major impediment in the safeguarding of the interests of persons protected by the Fourth Convention.

The International Committee of the Red Cross has endeavoured to extend its humanitarian activities in such a manner as to palliate, in so far as it could, the absence of Protecting Powers. It has been granted by the authorities concerned, on many points, facilities enabling it to carry out its humanitarian mission. In other spheres, however, it has noted that it has not been in a position to further the application of the Fourth Convention, for example, as regards the destruction of property, the expulsion of persons, public prosecution, the status of officials, etc.

In view of this situation, the International Committee of the Red Cross therefore insists in pointing out clearly that it does not exercise the control entrusted by the Fourth Convention to the Protecting Power or to its duly appointed substitutes.

However, the International Committee of the Red Cross will continue, with all means at its disposal and within all possibilities offered to it, to bring its humanitarian aid to the victims of events.

*EXTERNAL ACTIVITIES***Middle East**

Release of Prisoners. — As a result of various representations made by the ICRC to obtain the right of visiting and talking without witnesses with El Fatah prisoners captured during the operations at Karameh on 21 March, 80 detainees have been released and repatriated by the Israeli authorities. The latter have, moreover, informed the ICRC that 66 detainees are still held in Jenin prison on Jordan West Bank territory.

In this connection, it should be mentioned that although the delegates have been able to visit these prisoners, they have been unable as yet to obtain permission to talk with them without witnesses.

The Israeli authorities have handed to the ICRC a list of 147 detainees captured on March 21.

Meeting of ICRC delegates. — The delegates of the ICRC in the Middle East met from April 30 to May 2 in Nicosia under the direction of Mr. Pierre Gaillard, Assistant Director at the ICRC, who had come specially from Geneva for that occasion.

The meeting, which included ICRC representatives in the United Arab Republic, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan and Israel, enabled various ICRC operations between Israel and the Arab countries to be co-ordinated.

Mr. Gaillard then went to the Lebanon and afterwards to Israel where he had discussions at the Ministries of Defence and of Foreign Affairs in connection with the application of the Conventions in favour of civilians and prisoners captured by the Israeli army in occupied territories and during the Karameh operations on 21 March.

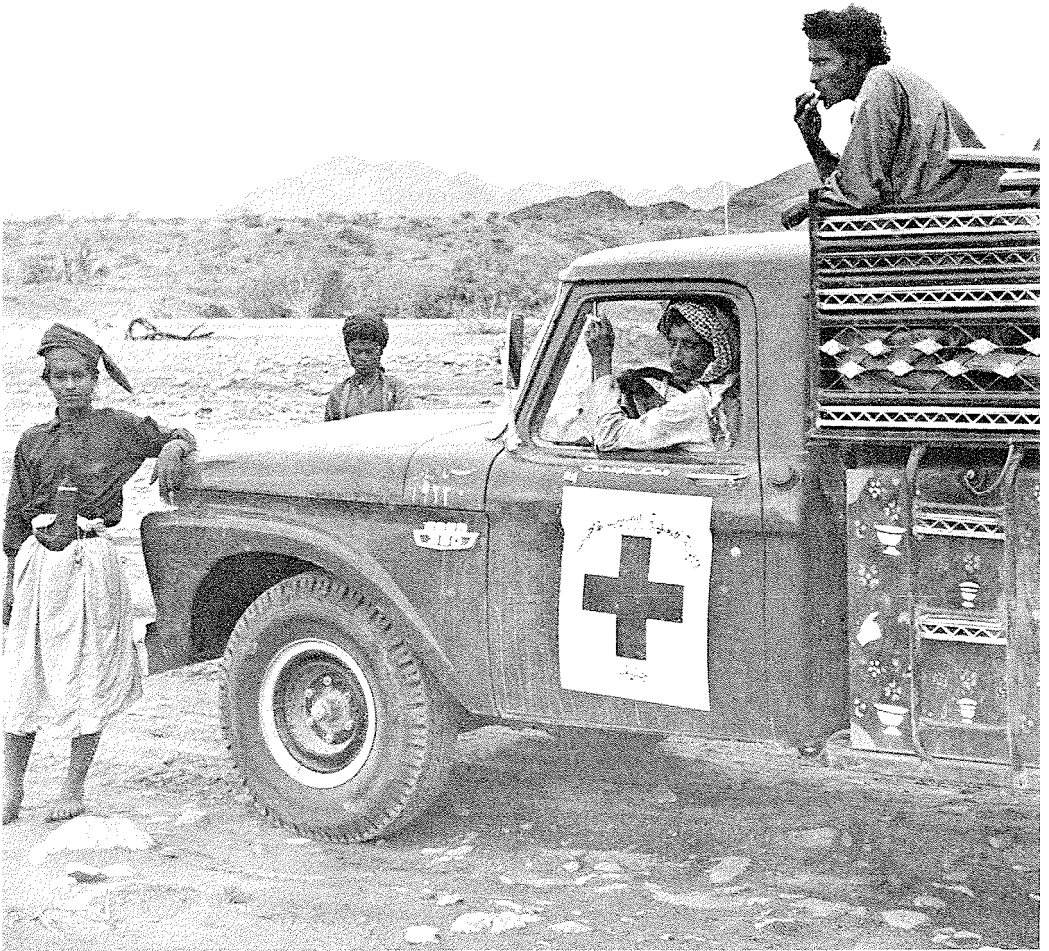
Repatriation. — Nearly 800 persons of Palestinian or Egyptian nationality have been repatriated at El Qantara from February to April, in the presence of the ICRC delegates to Cairo and Tel

YEMEN



An ICRC relief column crossing the desert...

YEMEN



... and halts before continuing its journey.

Aviv. In principle, two exchanges of Palestinians returning to Gaza and also of Egyptians from El Arish going back to Egypt are arranged each month by the ICRC.

On May 15, the ICRC delegates to Cairo and Israel took part in a further repatriation operation at El Qantara of 221 Egyptians from El Arish returning to the UAR and 182 Palestinians going home to the Gaza area. This exchange was the largest organized by the ICRC between Egypt and Gaza-Sinai occupied territory.

On April 15, the Israeli authorities captured 25 Egyptian sailors and fishermen. The ICRC delegates in Israel at once asked for the right to visit them and give them parcels from the UAR Red Crescent.

On May 16 the Israeli authorities granted the ICRC delegates the right freely to visit these detainees and talk with them without witnesses. A few hours after this visit the 25 sailors were released and they returned in their vessels to the UAR, where they arrived without difficulty the next day.

Yemen ¹

Request for a new medical team in North Yemen. — On May 23 the ICRC made a radio appeal for a new surgical team for North Yemen, as replacement of the one installed on April 21 and which will be ending its mandate on June 30.

This medical mission in the interior of the country will require three surgeons and four male nurses.

The work of the present team, divided into two groups, is intensive. In one single day these teams have dealt with and hospitalized 46 surgical and 10 medical cases. The improvised policlinic has a daily admission of some 15 to 20 people.

At Sanaa. — Responding to an ICRC appeal made to several National Societies, the German Red Cross in the German Democratic Republic and the Czechoslovak Red Cross have each agreed to make a surgeon available for service in hospitals of the Yemeni capital.

¹ *Plate.*—An ICRC relief column crossing the desert and halts before continuing its journey.

These two surgeons, Dr. Bresan and Dr. Loris were welcomed in Aden by the ICRC delegate who accompanied and introduced them to the Ministry of Health in Sanaa.

The Hungarian Red Cross has also informed the ICRC of the forthcoming departure of two surgeons placed by its government at the disposal of the Republican authorities in Sanaa.

Assistance to the war disabled. — Whilst in Geneva the Minister of Health of the Yemeni Republic requested the ICRC's help and especially the resumption of its action for fitting the war disabled, numbering about a hundred, with artificial limbs. Complying with this request the ICRC instructed Dr. Ulrich Midden-dorp, who had been in Sanaa in January, to undertake a further mission in the Yemeni capital in order to make a thorough examination of the problems of fitting the disabled with appliances and to draw up a programme of work to that effect.

It has also been decided to reopen a delegation in Sanaa and Mr. Alfred Isler will accordingly henceforth represent the ICRC in Sanaa and in Aden.

Vietnam

Urgent Appeal to ICRC for Blood Plasma. — On May 10 the ICRC received an urgent request from its Saigon delegation for blood plasma needed by the South Vietnam Red Cross. It there-upon bought 250 units of plasma and transfusion material from the Central Laboratory in Berne of the Swiss Red Cross Blood Transfusion Service.

Alerted by the ICRC the Red Cross Societies of The Netherlands, Australia and the Federal Republic of Germany immediately despatched respectively 100, 2000 and 4000 units of blood plasma.

Surgical and Medical Equipment donation. — As part of its programme of assistance to civilian wounded and sick, the ICRC arranged for its delegation in Saigon to deliver surgical and medical equipment to the hospital at Hué. This hospital had been severely damaged during the fighting last February.

The equipment was sent from Switzerland in two consignments on April 5 and 22. The cost, approximately 65,000 Sw. frs., was

covered by various donations sent to the ICRC for its mission in South Vietnam.

Donation to ICRC from Austrian government. — The Austrian government has just advised the grant to the ICRC of an 86,400 Sw. fr. donation. This will be used by the ICRC in its work for the benefit of wounded and sick victims of the war both in the North and the South of Vietnam.

Laos

The *International Review* last February published the text of the appeal the ICRC launched at the beginning of the year for the benefit of some 25,000 new refugees who had fled the fighting in the North and South of Laos, to seek refuge in the Mekong basin. By the end of May the ICRC had received cash donations to a value of 128,608.70 Sw. frs. for the action it is carrying out jointly with the Lao Red Cross. In addition, relief in kind has been donated to a value of 53.950 Sw.frs.

On April 25 Dr. Jurg Baer, ICRC delegate in Vientiane, went to the province of Sayabouri where he issued 500 mosquito-nets and 2000 nivaquin tablets (against malaria) to 321 families making a total of 1,915 persons. There have in fact been many malaria victims among these Meos mountain dwellers recently settled in the Mekong basin and 40 deaths from the disease were recently reported.

In conjunction with the Lao Red Cross the ICRC delegate has distributed relief in other regions, such as Luang-Prabang, Houei-Sai and Savannakhet. The material distributed included matting, mosquito-nets, blankets, bowls, clothing, material, spice, rice and salt.

The ICRC also contributed equipment to the new leper colony at Van Vieng which has 70 inmates.

Latin America

ICRC delegate Pierre Jequier arrived in Havana on May 12. He will undertake a mission to several Latin American countries.

Germany

Whilst in the Federal Republic of Germany, ICRC delegate H. G. Beckh, during the first half of May, and with the agreement of the authorities, went to three places of detention; one in Bavaria and two in Baden-Württemberg. He talked in private with seven prisoners convicted of political offences.

The authorities gave every assistance to the ICRC delegate to carry out his mission.

Poland

Compensation to victims of pseudo-medical experiments. — An ICRC mission, consisting of Dr. Jacques de Rougemont, doctor-delegate and member of the International Committee, together with Mr. Jean-Pierre Maunoir, Assistant Director at the ICRC, visited Warsaw and Krakow from April 16 to 30. It examined a further group (the 7th) of victims of pseudo-medical experiments carried out in German concentration camps under the Nazi regime, whose claims had previously been approved by the General Commission of the Ministry of Justice.

These examinations took place in the presence of a doctor who had presided over the panel which recommended the placing of these persons in hospital for observation, members of the Medical Commission of the Polish Red Cross and a judge delegated by the General Commission. 81 cases were examined and referred to the next session of the Commission of neutral experts which the ICRC has charged with establishing the validity of these claims for financial aid and the amount to be paid to the beneficiaries.

IN THE RED CROSS WORLD

JOINT COMMISSION of the EMPRESS SHÔKEN FUND

Geneva, 11th April 1968.

FORTY-SEVENTH DISTRIBUTION OF INCOME

The Joint Commission entrusted with the distribution of the income of the Empress Shôken Fund met in Geneva on the 22nd March, 1968. The Japanese Red Cross was represented by His Excellency Ambassador M. Nakayama.

The Commission noted the statement of accounts and the situation of the Fund as at 31st December 1967 and confirmed that the balance available amounted to Sw. Frs. 34,988.10.

Twenty requests had been submitted for allocations from the XLVIIth Distribution of income. In application of the remarks made in Circular No. 52 of the 11th April 1963, concerning the disadvantages of making small allocations which do not permit the financing of projects, the Joint Commission decided to make the following allocations:

The Ceylon Red Cross Society: Sw. Frs. 12,500
to purchase an ambulance.

The Republic of Korea National Red Cross: Sw. Frs. 9,000
to purchase a centrifuge for the conservation of plasma.

IN THE RED CROSS WORLD

The Togolese Red Cross Society : Sw. Frs. 13,000

to purchase a heavy duty vehicle for their disaster relief team.

The unused balance of Sw. Frs. 488.10 will be added to the income available for the XLVIIIth Distribution.

In accordance with Article 5b of the Regulations, the beneficiary National Societies are required to report in due course to the International Committee of the Red Cross or the League of Red Cross Societies on the use which has been made of the allocations received. The Joint Commission would like this report, accompanied by photographs if possible, to reach it at the latest by the end of the year during which the allocation is used. It furthermore reminds beneficiaries of Article 5a of the Regulations which prohibits them from assigning the grant for purposes other than those specified without the previous consent of the Commission.

In accordance with the Regulations, the 1968 income will be distributed in 1969. The Central Committees of National Societies are now invited by the Secretariat of the Joint Commission to submit requests for an allocation.

The Joint Commission desires to remind candidates that such requests must indicate the precise purposes for which the allocation will be used, in order for them to be considered; they must also, as far as possible, be accompanied by a plan of financing. Requests must be submitted to the Secretariat of the Joint Commission before 31st December 1968. To facilitate National Societies to make applications in conformity with the Regulations, the Joint Commission has decided to send, as in the past year, model application forms to all National Societies.

For the Joint Commission

League of Red Cross Societies

H. Beer

N. Abut

K. J. Seevaratnam

*International Committee
of the Red Cross*

M. Bodmer

R. Gallopin

(Miss) A. Pfirter

EMPRESS SHÔKEN FUND

BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER 1967

ASSETS	<i>Sw. Frs.</i>	<i>Sw. Frs.</i>	OWN FUNDS AND LIABILITIES	<i>Sw. Frs.</i>
Public securities at nominal value			Inalienable capital: Balance	
Swiss Securities (Market value)			brought forward from 1966 .	508,313.79
Sw. Frs. 185,020.)— . . .	199,000.—		Plus:	
Foreign Securities at nominal value			Extraordinary contribution received from the Japanese Government in 1967	119,889.71
(Market value)			Provision for market fluctuations	101,392.60
Sw. Frs. 231,070) <u>257,320.—</u>		456,320.—	Provision for administrative costs:	
Time deposit with the League of Red Cross Societies (3 months at 9. 2. 1968 . . .		304,998.55	Debit balance brought forward from 1966 (36.10)	
Cash at Banque Nationale Suisse, Geneva	19,276.30		Statutory attribution on the income in 1967	<u>1,793.85</u>
Cash with Bordier & C ^{ie} , Geneva	<u>5,631.00</u>	24,907.30	Less:	
Administration Fédérale des Contributions, Bern (Tax at source to be reclaimed)		3,809.10	Actual administrative costs in 1966	<u>(1,435.60)</u>
			Credit balance at 31 December, 1967	322.15
			Funds available at 31 December, 1967, according to accounts	<u>34,988.10</u>
			Total of own funds	764,906.35
			Creditors (allocations to be withdrawn)	25,128.60
		<u>790,034.05</u>		<u>790,034.95</u>

IN THE RED CROSS WORLD

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR 1967

		<i>Sw. Frs.</i>
Funds available at 31 December		
1966		25,904.70
Less:		
Forty-sixth distribution of allocations to three National Red Cross Societies in accordance with the decision of the Joint Commission, 17 March, 1967 (Circular No. 58 of 11 April, 1967)		25,000.00
		<hr/>
Balance brought forward . .		904.70
Income on investments and interests in 1967.	22,926.25	
Plus-value estimation of securities purchased in 1967	12,951.00	
	<hr/>	
	35,877.25	
Less:		
Allocation of 5% of the 1967 income to the administration of the Fund, in accordance with Article 7 of the Regulations . .	1,793.85	
	<hr/>	
		34,083.40
Funds available at 31 December, 1967		<hr/>
		<u>34,988.10</u>

VIETNAM

Relief to civilian and military victims

Last March International Review published the text of an appeal launched jointly on February 9, 1968, by the International Committee of the Red Cross and the League of Red Cross Societies on behalf of the civilian population in the Republic of Vietnam and the Democratic Republic of Vietnam. We mentioned then that the first donations had begun to pour in and that distribution of relief supplies received had started immediately.

Since that time donations have continued to reach beneficiaries and the two international institutions of the Red Cross have issued a progress report on assistance to civilian and military victims as of May 1968. This report to National Societies will no doubt be of interest to our readers, who will see from the extracts given below how extensive is the general relief work undertaken by the Red Cross in Vietnam.

1. REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

LEAGUE PROGRAMME

From the joint circulars issued by the League and the International Committee of the Red Cross on the 12th February and 26th March National Societies are informed of the emergency assistance that has been provided through Red Cross channels for the victims of the Têt offensive. The hundreds of thousands of persons who were displaced as a result of the extensive military operations of the end of January and early February have swelled the number of "refugees" in this war-torn country. The first emergency period is over and the Republic of Vietnam Red Cross,

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with the assistance of the League Delegation, is now concentrating once again on developing its relief organisation in the Provinces. This programme it will be recalled foresees the distribution of rations, the operation of fixed and mobile dispensaries, as well as milk stations for the children, training of Red Cross volunteers and the establishment of regional warehouses. The value of such a programme was amply demonstrated by the immediate assistance which the existing Provincial Red Cross Committees were able to provide to the displaced persons in their area in the first days after the events of the Lunar New Year and the support of the general public to the often newly-created Red Cross Committees was extremely encouraging.

For the convenience of National Societies, the plan for 1968 is restated below with a budget for the period 1st April to 31st December 1968. It is expected that the number of people which will require rations from the Red Cross will be increased, but it is not considered realistic to budget on making distributions to more than approximately 10,000 persons a month in the present stage of the development of the Provincial Committees.

1968 Plan with Budget for period April/December 1968.

	<i>Dollars</i>
1. <i>Red Cross Committees</i> .—Establishment and development of new Red Cross Committees, particularly in the Centre. To strengthen these and those already operating recruit 25 administrative officers to be financed by the League and assisted by the League Regional Delegates	45 000
2. <i>Emergency relief distributions</i> .—Local purchases will be supplemented by gifts in kind already received or announced and those that will be provided by sister Societies during the year	100 000
3. <i>Milk Stations</i> .—Establish approximately an additional 100 stations in the Centre (serving 300 children each), plus operating costs of these and those already working	35 000

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	<i>Dollars</i>
4. <i>Mobile dispensaries</i> .—6, each staffed by 2 Vietnamese Red Cross nurses (vehicles already available)	9 000
5. <i>Fixed dispensaries</i> .—20 staffed by Vietnamese personnel, including some construction costs and medical supplies	11 000
6. <i>Training in first aid</i> .—In the Centre as already provided in the Delta	2 000
7. <i>Warehouses</i> .—6 regional	500
8. <i>League Delegation</i> .—2 delegates in Delta, 3 in Centre, 2 in Saigon and 1 Secretary	120 000
9. <i>Administration</i> .—Internal transport, etc.	17 500
10. <i>Contingency</i>	30 000
Total . . .	<u>370,000</u>

Relief Programme.

Since the beginning of the year the following distributions have been carried out by the Republic of Vietnam Red Cross with the assistance of the League Delegation:

	<i>Jan. 68</i>	<i>Feb. 68</i>	<i>March 68</i>	<i>Total : Jan. 67 to March 68</i>
Number of families assisted . .	40,069	49,746	23,083	149,609
consisting of (no. of persons) .	185,359	222,698	140,796	717,747
Kilos of rice distributed	206,196	227,616	160,568	780,819
Tins of condensed milk distributed	59,957	65,162	26,963	208,134
Sleeping mats distributed . . .	7,041	7,251	7,013	28,346
Metres of cloth distributed . . .	14,580	126,875	67,477	321,227
Soap pieces distributed	1,493	3,268	9,556	98,085

IN THE RED CROSS WORLD

Milk Stations.

As previously reported, the milk station programme was seriously disrupted towards the end of last year by a breakdown in the supply of powdered milk. A new consignment was received in January and shipped out to the Provincial Committees. However, very few of the milk stations had resumed their activities before the Têt offensive when all schools were closed. Further supplies of milk have now been distributed so that the milk stations can open again once the schools resume, which was planned for the 1st April.

Personnel.

At the end of March the League Chief Delegate left Saigon for Norway after almost eleven months service. The League Delegation now consists of eight members.

General.

The part played by the Republic of Vietnam Red Cross in relieving the suffering of the civilian victims of the present conflict has impressed everyone and it is most important that they be assisted to expand their organisation to cover all the Provinces. The League would be grateful to receive any additional funds which sister Societies may be able to make available to finance the continuation of the 1968 programme. In addition, the Vietnamese Red Cross has submitted plans for the construction in Saigon of a Red Cross Convalescent Home for children who can be discharged from hospital if adequate care is available. Also as has already been reported, the Vietnamese Red Cross is going to build an enlarged Amputee Centre on its premises in Saigon and would like to have an orthopaedic workshop to supplement the government workshop as many of the amputees have to remain very many months in the Red Cross centre before they can be fitted with their artificial limbs. The League would be pleased to share with any interested Societies more details concerning these two projects.

ICRC PROGRAMME

Personnel.

The ICRC Delegation in Saigon consists of the head of delegation and two mobile teams each comprising one doctor-delegate and one visiting delegate.

Visits to places of detention.

During the first quarter of 1968 the ICRC Delegates have visited the prisoner of war camps at Bien-Hoa, Can-Tho, Da-Nang, Phu-Quoc and Qui-Nhon, the reception centres at Nui-Dat (in Australian hands), Dong-Tam, Can-Tho, Chu-Lai, Phy-Bay and Da-Nang (in American hands) and the camp at Da-Nang (in Korean hands). They have also visited North Vietnamese prisoners detained by the Americans at Da-Nang, as well as at the Cong-Hoa military hospital.

The number of prisoners thus visited is 10,540. At the conclusion of their visits, during which they could speak freely and without witness to any prisoners of war they chose, the Delegates made known to the detaining authorities their observations and requests and later submitted written reports.

Medical needs.

On the 29th February 1968, the ICRC doctor-delegate and the League's Chief Delegate accompanied the Minister of Health and a Republic of Vietnam Red Cross official on a visit to the civilian hospital at Hué.

This hospital, with a capacity of 1,100 beds, was about 30% destroyed. The plight of the injured during the Têt offensive was dramatic—abandoned to their fate for three weeks many died of tetanus and gas gangrene. During this visit 300 patients were in the hospital while the severely injured had been evacuated to Da-Nang. The following urgent needs were ascertained: surgical instruments (particularly for brain surgery); blood; oxygen cylinders; Phisoex (blood substitute); Penicillin; condensed milk; developers for X-ray films.

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On the other hand it was stated that the provision of medical teams was not necessary. Plans to reconstruct the hospital are being considered for which international assistance may later be needed.

With funds provided to the ICRC by certain National Societies and organisations, and in agreement with the League, a substantial quantity of surgical instruments and medical supplies was given to the Hué hospital.

The ICRC was also able to distribute blood plasma thanks to a gift from the Netherlands Red Cross during the first days of the Têt offensive, and at the same time contributed Sw. fr. 100,000 to the Republic of Vietnam Red Cross emergency milk distribution programme.

II. DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

Between the 18th and 21st March 1968 Mr. Olof Stroh, Secretary General of the Swedish Red Cross, visited the Red Cross Society of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam in Hanoi to discuss ways in which his Society could provide additional and more effective assistance. He has confirmed that the Red Cross Society of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam is very active and has close relations with its Ministry of Health, which is providing a very successful nation-wide health service. The Red Cross is said to have 120,000 active volunteers working mainly with first aid and general hygiene, including digging of pits, arrangements for laundry and latrines, etc. Red Cross volunteers also take part in the birth control programme, which presents most impressive figures. In 1964 the percentage of births was 3.64%, in 1967 it was 2.5% and the estimated figure for 1968 is 2.4%. The death rate is extremely low, namely 0.7%. The Red Cross, at the local level, also gives assistance to individuals who have been struck by disaster.

Mr. Stroh further reported:

“ The general system of public health and medical care seems to be built on a principle of decentralisation and an ambition to

use all means available co-ordinating them in a way allowing the highest degree of economy in the use of highly qualified personnel and material. Thus first-aid normally is given by Red Cross volunteers. If needed, the patient will be transported from one of the many first aid posts to a district hospital where a doctor's aid with two years training will be responsible. If he is not able to give the needed treatment the patient will be transported to a bigger hospital (regional) where the professional capacity is higher. If the number of patients at the district hospitals is big they will be attended by mobile teams for surgery, going out from the regional hospitals.

The medical principles are most interesting. They can be characterised as a combination of modern scientific medical care and traditional methods. For instance they use for mass vaccinations endo-dermic application of multi purpose vaccines which seem to be more complicated than those used in western medicine. The advantage is said to be that vaccinations can be made by unqualified personnel, they can be made very fast, there is said to be no contra-indications and also the duration of the immunity is said to be longer and the necessary dose can be given on one occasion.

They have also developed specific types of vaccines such as dead BCG vaccines which it is said can be conserved without refrigeration for 3 to 6 months. They produce sabina vaccine against polio and say that today they have nearly no polio cases. I was told that the progress during the last two years has been as great as during the ten previous years. The number of wounded and dead has decreased. Some examples were given. In 1945 the mortality for women giving birth was 20 per thousand, whilst it had decreased to 0.4 per thousand in 1964. Deathrate amongst babies at birth had decreased from 30% in 1945 to 2.5% in 1963.

Another detail which evoked my interest was the use of very great amounts of serum (‘ salted ’ with potash) in order to prevent shock). These intravenous injections were given under high pressure and in quantities as large as 6 litres in one hour.

Burns were treated with *bacillus utilis* which was said to be of no harm to the tissue itself and to keep all other infections away. The results were said to be extremely good both as to the final

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result and to the speed of recovery. They use special traditional drugs for ointments and bamboo splints instead of plaster in treatment of fractures, believing this results in faster recovery and less complications.

General remarks were made about material received from abroad and it was stressed that if possible everything should be 'tropic proof'. Only kerosene refrigerators should be sent. When it comes to hospital equipment, only instruments and machinery are required. Concerning transportation it was firmly recommended that this be by Polish ships to Haiphong."

With the funds which sister Societies have sent to the League, amounting to approximately Sw. fr. 630,000.—, a consignment of multivitamin tablets has been sent to the Democratic Republic of Vietnam Red Cross and shipments of blankets, cloth, children's clothing, medicaments, instruments and medical equipment and probably some first-aid kits and ambulances will shortly go forward.

* * *

The field hospital of 60 beds which, thanks to many gifts, the ICRC sent to the Democratic Republic of Vietnam Red Cross in December 1967 has been deeply appreciated due to its mobility and its valuable equipment.

With the funds received by the ICRC as a result of the joint appeal of the 12th February 1968,¹ and in agreement with the League, a second field hospital will be provided and will be ready to be shipped by sea to Haiphong during the month of June.

III. NATIONAL LIBERATION FRONT

A second despatch for the NLF controlled territories has been made via Moscow to Hanoi of a radiographic apparatus, valued at Sw. fr. 32,000.—. On the basis of reports received, it has been decided to use the balance of funds donated by National Societies for the provision of antibiotics and other medicaments and phar-

¹ See *International Review*, March 1968.

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maceutical products. Some first aid kits and medical instruments and supplies may also be sent but news concerning the safe arrival of the first shipment is awaited before despatching further consignments.

* * *

The League and the International Committee of the Red Cross are grateful to all National Societies which, either through their intermediary or directly, have aided the sister Societies in Vietnam in their relief operation on behalf of the civilian victims of the war. They are urged to continue to give this action their whole-hearted and generous support.

It is the desire of all Red Cross members that peace should be re-established in South East Asia. This, however, will confront the Red Cross with new problems in Vietnam requiring new solutions. At that moment it will be necessary to have rapidly available additional extensive resources.

LEAGUE MISSION IN CENTRAL AND EAST AFRICA

Early this year the Under Secretary-General of the League of Red Cross Societies, Mr. William H. S. Dabney, and the Head, Execution Section, Mr. Nicholas Phillips, went on a mission to the Red Cross Societies of Kenya, Madagascar, Tanzania, Zambia and Malawi. We have pleasure in publishing the following article giving an account of that mission.

The object of the mission was twofold: firstly, for the Under Secretary-General, Mr. Dabney, to make contact with the leaders of Central and East African National Societies and secondly, to discuss projects in which the League is assisting certain of these National Societies within the framework of the Development Programme.

Kenya.—We visited Kenya from the 15th to the 22nd January which gave me the opportunity to observe the progress made by the Kenya Red Cross since I first came into contact with it in 1964. The Swedish Red Cross and the British Red Cross have been providing effective assistance through the Development Programme which is ensuring a healthy growth of Red Cross in the country. The number of divisions has risen considerably and although we had time for visits only to three of these we must pay tribute to the work we saw. Of particular interest was the Kirathimo Model Village run by the Limuru Division.

The object of this experimental Model Village is to educate the rural women in better home management, with particular emphasis on good nutrition and better use of those foodstuffs which are easily available, even in the poorest homes. The word "Kirathimo" is the Kikuyu for "Blessing" which is what the Division

hopes it will prove to be to the women living around Limuru. The motto of the Village fully sums up its aims—*Teach a mother, save a child*.

The women who are chosen for these courses are selected by the Mother and Child Welfare Clinics, as being women whose children show signs of malnutrition, and who the medical authorities feel will benefit from individual practical tuition. They are allowed to bring up to three pre-school children with them on the course, and will not be asked to pay anything towards their board and lodging, but will only be required to become a member of the Kenya Red Cross Society.

The Model Village was built with public funds and with a great deal of donated materials. The Division has been given a grant from the Kiambu County Council towards the daily running costs, and the Management Committee also intends holding fund raising events from time to time. However, the daily food requirements are largely met by donations from many Kenyan manufacturers, without whose help and co-operation the whole project would not have been possible.

If I mention this at some length, it is because I feel most strongly that this is an example to local Committees in many countries of the world of what can be achieved from local sources.

Madagascar.—On 23rd January we moved on to Madagascar whose Society had never before been visited by members of the League Secretariat.¹

The Madagascar Red Cross Society is a decentralised society, work at national level being kept to that of a co-ordinating body and the onus of activity being placed on the provincial and local committees. There are six provincial committees: Tananarive, Tamatave, Diego Suarez, Fianarantsoa, Tuléar, Majunga. On last records, each provincial committee had about one hundred local committees to its name. This figure does not include representatives in smaller areas.

Broadly speaking the activities of the society are in the field of first-aid, mother-and-child care, disaster relief. For first-aid training

¹ Mr. G. Hoffmann, ICRC delegate-general for Africa went to Madagascar in 1963.

the Society relies on the services of the medical profession to volunteer their help. On an average about 50 diplomas are given a year. Holders are then expected to make their services available to the provincial committee in Tananarive, if they are staying in the capital or, if they are moving into the country, to the nearest Red Cross centre to their base. As far as mother-and-child care programme is concerned the society operates primarily from the "centres de nivaquinisation"¹ throughout the country.

We saw activities in two of the provinces, Tananarive and Tamatave, and were told that the operations take broadly similar lines in the other provinces. The Red Cross volunteers at the centres undergo prior training in a mother-and-child care nutrition programme in the local hospitals before they are assigned to the centres, and at each nivaquine-dosing, consultations are held for the mothers of the children.

As far as relief is concerned, the society has a central warehouse, stocked with central supplies of foodstuffs and clothing. The society also has some funds set aside for purchase of essential supplies such as rice in the event of a disaster. In such a time the society can call upon military help for the airlifting of supplies to the area, where distribution is carried out by Red Cross volunteers. These are provincial or local committee volunteers.

Tanzania.—Our visit to Tanzania coincided with a Youth Festival, and in fact the work of the Red Cross which we saw in Tanzania had very much of a youth flavour to it.

I would mention particularly a most interesting day we spent at Bagamayo, which at one time was the staging point for the dispatch of slaves to the market in Zanzibar. Here an excellent rally had been arranged and local Junior Red Cross in-school groups gave displays of First Aid and dancing culminating in a spirited rendering of a Red Cross song in Swahili composed locally. This song, which lays great stress on the non-religious, impartial and humanitarian aspects of Red Cross, was composed as an antidote to the erstwhile hostility and reticence towards Red Cross on the part of many of the older members of the local community.

¹ Nivaquine is an anti-malaria drug.

Mrs. Kawawa, the wife of the Second Vice-President of the Republic, was in the party in her capacity of honorary Vice-President of the Tanzania Red Cross and she took this song as her theme when addressing the elders of the community following the display. It was a most impressive address and will, I hope, have contributed towards strengthening the concept of the Red Cross in that part of Tanzania.

Zambia.—From Dar es Salaam we moved on to Zambia, whose Society was recently admitted to the League at the last meeting of the Board of Governors at The Hague in September 1967. We had the opportunity to visit three of the Branches active in the fields of first-aid, home nursing, Junior Red Cross and in a variety of hospital services. The Ndola Branch for instance, amongst its many activities, provides qualified first-aiders with ambulance and equipment at all major sporting events, organises first-aid and home nursing courses in schools, factories and for the general public and runs the blood donor service which in 1967-68 provided some 2,400 pints of blood to the Ndola hospitals.

The Society is also extremely fortunate in having five full-time first-aid instructors who are available to carry on training programmes for the Branches. These instructors were trained by a League Delegate through the Development Programme in 1966, and between 1966 and 1968 the Society has received assistance in delegates through the Development Programme from the National Societies of Great Britain, Federal Republic of Germany and Norway.

A service we saw outside the Red Cross but which made a great impression on us was the Zambia Flying Doctor Service. This Service, which has been opening up air-strips in remote areas is really doing far more than providing medical cover. It is pioneering an aspect of community development and there must surely be a useful role for Red Cross to play.¹

Malawi.—Our last port of call was Malawi, where we found a small Red Cross Society doing a good job of work in a number of

¹ See *International Review of the Red Cross*, March and May 1967.

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fields. Activities include first aid, training, hospital welfare, assistance to handicapped children and the running of pre-natal clinics in the area around Blantyre. We visited one of these and it was most encouraging to see that as a result of this activity, village women are forming member groups to come and assist the Red Cross staff at these clinics. This young Society is also giving training in first-aid and midwifery to the Air Malawi Hostesses and Mr. Dabney presented certificates to the first six of these girls who had just completed their course.

Another service which the Red Cross gives, this time to the Young Pioneers movement, is first aid training in each of the pioneer camps. This service was started by a delegate of the British Red Cross and the Malawi Red Cross man whom he trained is now in charge of these courses.

Nicholas PHILLIPS
Head, Execution Section
League of Red Cross Societies

Kenya

In a recent issue of its "Newsletter" the Kenya Red Cross published an interesting article on the model village of Kirathimo. We give below some extracts which supplement the information given by Mr. N. Phillips in his article on a previous page.

A model village has been built consisting of five round mud huts, thatched with mukuti, and whitewashed inside and out, with gaily painted doors and windows, each hut having its own distinctive colour for all the woodwork and the furniture. The fireplaces have been built to the new improved pattern tried-out so successfully in Uganda, where the fire is made on top of a raised plinth three feet off the ground. This is to try to combat the dreadful burns children suffer from fire and boiling water. The huts are simply furnished with two beds complete with mattresses, plastic

covers, sheets, blankets and pillows, a round table, two chairs, a food safe and a simple cupboard. Each hut has its own supply of crockery and cutlery, all marked in the distinctive colour. Lighting is by hurricane lamp, and water is collected in a debe from the tap. There are also three latrines, a washing slab and central tap, two wash-houses, and a covered area where the washing can be dried in wet weather, and there is a table there, for the ironing. In the centre of the village there is a small grass lawn where trees have been planted, to make a play area for the children. Behind each hut is a small wood-pile, chicken run, and vegetable garden. Lastly there is a stone store with shelves from ground to ceiling, flour bins and a kerosine-run refrigerator where all goods used in the village will be stored . . .

. . . Every day the resident Housemother issues the mothers with rations and cleaning materials, and then each mother returns to her own hut and prepares the meals for her own children under the housemother's supervision. She also does the family washing, cleans out the hut and works in the vegetable garden.

In the afternoons the mothers congregate in the training room of the Divisional H.Q., and whilst they sew small garments, they are given simple lectures on mother and baby care, as well as talks upon the Kenya Red Cross and very simple first-aid for burns and asphyxia. On the Sunday the husbands are invited to visit the Model Village and see what their wives have been taught.

At the end of each course, the mothers are given a copy of 'Simple Mother and Baby Care' to take home with them and they will also be presented with a Certificate of Attendance. Once they have returned to their own homes, the local Health Visitor will visit them and follow-up their progress. The knowledge gained at Kirathimo Model Village will slowly be disseminated over a wider field.

It is felt that two weeks is the maximum time for such a course. However, it is envisaged that sometime it might be possible to hold a one-day reunion for all the women who hold Certificates of Attendance, to see if they have any further problems, and to give them some revision and refresher talks and to encourage them to persevere.

Italy

On the initiative of the Swiss Consul in Trieste various events took place there last April, arranged by the Italo-Swiss Cultural Organization. These consisted of a lecture on the origins and development of the Red Cross, the showing of two of the International Committee's films, an exhibition of documents on the present tasks of the ICRC in various countries and also of reproductions of items from the Trieste Agency (1877) archives kept in Geneva.

The lecture by Miss M. Katz, Head of the Italian Section of the Central Tracing Agency, was attended by large numbers of the public, regional officials, the President General and leading members of the Italian Red Cross. Amongst other factors marking our movement's development over a hundred years, the lecturer recalled the close bonds which existed from the beginning between Italy and the Red Cross. These are now related as a tribute to the country of which Gustave Moynier said in 1873: " Ever since I concerned myself in international humanitarian law I have always seen Italy warmly welcoming ideas of peace and generosity ".

... In a country where kindness is virtually a tradition, it is easily understandable that recourse to voluntary aid imposed itself on Henry Dunant. " How many beds can you make available to the wounded? " a French quartermaster asked one of the civil magistrates of Brescia, who replied: " We have 28,000 inhabitants, you can count on 28,000 beds ". Examples of devotion to the suffering were to be found more and more and were remarkable for their spontaneity. Whilst the women of Castiglione busied themselves with the wounded, those of the Italian nobility threw open their palaces to them and presided over most active relief societies. Dunant himself saw these at work.

Formed to fill the needs of the moment these societies could only be of a temporary character. Dunant, however, saw further ahead and urged that they remain on a permanent basis and constitute a European if not a universal organization.

The idea of neutralizing ambulances and medical personnel was not new. Throughout the course of history one can find agree-

ments concluded between military leaders for merciful ends, but their effects remained limited to the event which had brought them into being. When Dunant arrived on the scene the latest champions of having the wounded protected by neutrality were Ferdinando Palasciano and the Frenchman Henri Arrault.

A special place must be reserved for the former amongst the pioneers of humanitarian international law, for not only did he call indefatigably for the idea of giving the respect due to the wounded, but to defend and illustrate this he went so far as to imperil his life. A surgeon in the Bourbon army at the siege of Messina in 1848, Palasciano had in fact given the same treatment to the wounded on both sides, in spite of an order forbidding the sparing of any of the enemy, even if wounded. Only the King's intervention saved him from the firing squad, but all the same he underwent a year's imprisonment.

Palasciano, like Arrault and Dunant, was convinced that only an international treaty could ensure the immunity of the wounded in a definite manner. It was in January 1861, more than one year before the publication of *A Memory of Solferino*, that he delivered his address to the Académia Pontaniana of Naples on "the neutrality of the wounded in time of war".

In June 1864 the Medical Society of Milan initiated the "Italian Association of Aid to Wounded and Sick in Time of War". Due recognition should here be given to its promoter and driving force, Dr. Desare Castiglioni who was its first President.

In the very first conflict in which the Red Cross is involved, the Austro-Italian-Prussian War of 1866, the idea of mutual aid is made evident. The Milanese Committee, through Geneva, appeals to sister Societies.

1866 . . . amongst other events, this was the year of a moving meeting which should be recalled between Louis Appia and Garibaldi. What was Appia doing in the Trentino valley where the valorous patriot was continuing the fight? Flying to the aid of the wounded, he left Geneva and with his brother and two other volunteers formed a "Squadriglia dei Soccoritori volontari delle Valli" which rendered signal service to the followers of Garibaldi.

The 1866 war is of interest from quite a different angle, as a particularly stirring episode in it is the origin of a new step forward

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in humanitarian law. This was the battle of Lissa which has rightly been called the "Solferino of the sea". In this encounter the "Re d'Italia", rammed by an Austrian warship, sank immediately with the loss by drowning of 200 of her crew. A tragic event similar to many others, but which brought out the glaring inequality then existing between the fate of the combatant at sea and that on land. The Empress Eugénie expressed this to Dunant... "if there had been one lifeboat there, protected by your international standard, it could have saved them!"

The idea was to gather momentum. On the International Committee's proposal, a Diplomatic Conference, meeting in 1868 in Geneva, adopted a series of new provisions for adapting the principles of the Geneva Conventions to maritime warfare.

We naturally cannot follow the Red Cross in all its interventions during the conflicts of the 19th century (Moynier counted 36 of these). It will be sufficient to mention merely a few facts.

The aid societies, now more and more assuming the name of the Red Cross, help each other with ever greater frequency. The wars which marked the decline of Turkish hegemony in the Balkans provide many examples of this, such as that of 1877-78 in which the Ottoman Empire was opposed to Russia and her allies.

One point which touches us closely should be mentioned here. Trieste found itself in the middle of the merciful activity brought about by this conflict, for it was in that very city that the International Committee opened an Agency charged with centralizing and forwarding relief from the neutral countries. Its headquarters were at No. 18 (later No. 22) Via Nuova. Its President, Mr. Alexis Paris, was the Swiss Consul in Trieste who was assisted in his difficult task by many of its leading personalities.

The Trieste Agency has another reason for being of interest. Fleeing the enemy, some 150,000 civilian Turks took refuge in Constantinople and were in a condition of complete deprivation. Would the International Committee, instituted to aid the wounded, leave the beaten track, as it had done in 1870 by assisting prisoners of war? The answer is yes! for it thereupon authorized the Trieste Agency to come to the aid of these refugees and this was the first initiative taken by the Red Cross on behalf of civilians...

HENRY DUNANT INSTITUTE

THE MODERN STATE AND THE RED CROSS

On this subject the Henry Dunant Institute is organizing panel discussions to be held in Geneva from September 11-13, 1968, and about which it has the following to say by way of foreword.

Founded in 1963, the Red Cross is 105 years old. It has known over a century of continuous growth.

At the beginning, the Red Cross had only one role: to train "voluntary first-aiders" capable of giving assistance to the "wounded of armies in the field". These modest phalanxes have become legion. In virtually every country in the world, they now assume the most varied tasks in the fields of medicine, social welfare and education.

The ten articles of the first Geneva Convention, signed in 1864 initiated the long development of humanitarian law, and the four Geneva Conventions in force to-day form one of the master-pillars of international law.

The international bodies of the Red Cross, the International Committee and the League of Red Cross Societies, have earned, in war and peace, the respect of governments and the gratitude of millions.

There is no doubt that the Red Cross has repeatedly given conclusive proof of initiative and adaptability.

But over the same span of time, what upheavals the world has known!

From lint to penicillin, from cannon-ball to intercontinental ballistic missile, from the hegemony of a monarchical Europe to the sovereignty of newly independent states, from no rights for women to the female vote, from chancelleries to the proliferation

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of international institutions; the mutations and transformations have been so frequent and so vast that the Red Cross must put the question: Has it not, in spite of everything, been overtaken? Has it kept abreast of the times? Is its view of the modern world sufficiently clear and realistic to enable it to keep moving with the times and to progress?

The very fact that the question arises, demonstrates that it must be answered.

As an instrument for study and research in the service of the Red Cross as a whole, the Henry Dunant Institute has been entrusted with this problem, of which the complexity is in direct proportion to the wide variety of Red Cross activities.

To enlighten the Red Cross on those features of the modern world which are of particular concern to it can best be attained through a series of panels each devoted to a specific aspect of the question.

Specialists of renown, chosen from circles outside the Red Cross, will be invited to analyse each particular subject. They will address leading Red Cross members, who will thus find themselves confronted with today's realities and demands.

The debates, after each conference, should lead to the definition of principles of action for the future guidance of National Societies, the International Committee and the League of Red Cross Societies in their day to day activities.

The topic for discussion at the first of these panels will be *The Modern State and the Red Cross*, for it is a fact that over the last century there have been radical changes in the State which directly affect such "auxiliaries to public authorities" as the Red Cross Societies.

This vast and important subject will be considered from three different angles:

I. The first lecture delivered will deal with:

The State and Health Protection

When the Red Cross was first formed there was no such thing as a Minister of Health in any country, whereas today, in many

parts of the world the tendency is for the State to look after the individual " from the cradle to the grave ". Hence the question:

What scope should be left to private, and consequently, to Red Cross initiative?

to which the discussion following the lecture will endeavour to provide practical answers.

II. The subject of the second lecture will be:

The State and the Development of International Law

The Red Cross was the originator of treaty law applicable to war; it played the leading part in building up the " Law of Geneva ".

Do modern methods of warfare still enable the Red Cross to promote and ensure respect for humanitarian law?

Should it concentrate on reforming the law of war and strengthening peaceful methods for the settlement of armed conflicts?

The discussion will therefore be concerned with the question:

What is to be the position of the Red Cross in the development of international law?

III. The third lecture will deal with:

**States which have acceded to independence after
decolonization: the key ideas inspiring them to the
achievement of their national individuality.**

The Red Cross matured in countries which had long been in existence and which were the most technically advanced at the time. Today, it is taking root in new countries whose needs are quite different. It is important to gain a clear view of this new structure.

Discussion on this theme should reply to the question:

What moral, social and perhaps politico-legal functions can Red Cross discharge in developing countries?

M I S C E L L A N E O U S

THIRD CONGRESS OF THE NEUTRALITY OF MEDICINE

Organized by the Italian Association for the international Protection of Medicine and under the auspices of the International Committee of the Neutrality of Medicine, the IIIrd Congress was held in Rome from April 16 to 20.

Comprising some 130 participants from 34 different countries, with Professor Antonino Papaldo as President, the Congress adopted a certain number of resolutions which we will publish for documentary purposes in a subsequent issue.

The International Committee of the Red Cross was represented there by two observers, Mr. F. Siordet, Vice-President and Mr. J. Pictet, Director-General.

No less than 18 reports were submitted to the conference, amongst which there was a communication presented by the ICRC observers on disseminating the Geneva Conventions. We will subsequently return to this.

Members of the Congress were received in private audience by His Holiness Pope Paul VI who delivered a notable address which we now have the privilege of reproducing:

We are pleased to have been able to respond to your request for an audience and to receive you all here in Our abode, doctors and jurists who are taking part in the third international Congress of the Neutrality of Medicine. We welcome you wholeheartedly.

This Holy Week of Easter has seen the influx of great numbers of pilgrims to Rome unfortunately preventing Us from talking with you at length. All the same We praise all the concerted efforts you are making in the service of man, transcending differences of race, colour, nationality, political opinion or religious conviction. In this year devoted to Human Rights, We give you all encouragement most especially in having the international conventions more widely known and respected, since they protect amidst conflicts those who have chosen the noble mission of alleviating suffering, caring for and giving aid to their fellow beings, whether these are friends or enemies. Here, Gentlemen, are tasks which highly deserve and call for the active support of all men of goodwill.

The Catholic Church for its part encourages you most sincerely in your efforts, as it shares "all the joys, hopes, sorrows and anguish of man today", as the recent Oecumenical Council declared in its Gaudium and Spes pronouncement. There is so much sorrow in the world, such misery is lurking beside the fratricidal conflicts tearing mankind asunder. But if all men hope for harmonious progress and fellowship where war will be banished, who would not praise you for the tenacious efforts you are making at least to have the international conventions respected as well as the basic human rights amidst these struggles which never cease on our earth? You are thus working gradually to establish a kindlier world for all, this world on which we call down Our good wishes and prayers that justice, truth, freedom and goodness may reign.

The days you are spending in Rome will, We are certain, contribute towards this and We share this pleasure with you. It is therefore most warm-heartedly that We call on your work and on you yourselves in person an abundance of divine graces, as token of which We gladly grant you Our Apostolic Blessing.

EXTRACT FROM THE STATUTES OF
THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

(AGREED AND AMENDED ON SEPTEMBER 25, 1952)

ART. 1. — The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) founded in Geneva in 1863 and formally recognized in the Geneva Conventions and by International Conferences of the Red Cross, shall be an independent organization having its own Statutes.

It shall be a constituent part of the International Red Cross.¹

ART. 2. — As an association governed by Articles 60 and following of the Swiss Civil Code, the ICRC shall have legal personality.

ART. 3. — The headquarters of the ICRC shall be in Geneva.

Its emblem shall be a red cross on a white ground. Its motto shall be "Inter arma caritas".

ART. 4. — The special rôle of the ICRC shall be :

- (a) to maintain the fundamental and permanent principles of the Red Cross, namely : impartiality, action independent of any racial, political, religious or economic considerations, the universality of the Red Cross and the equality of the National Red Cross Societies;
- (b) to recognize any newly established or reconstituted National Red Cross Society which fulfils the conditions for recognition in force, and to notify other National Societies of such recognition;

¹ The International Red Cross comprises the National Red Cross Societies, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the League of Red Cross Societies. The term "National Red Cross Societies" includes the Red Crescent Societies and the Red Lion and Sun Society.

- (c) to undertake the tasks incumbent on it under the Geneva Conventions, to work for the faithful application of these Conventions and to take cognizance of any complaints regarding alleged breaches of the humanitarian Conventions;
- (d) to take action in its capacity as a neutral institution, especially in case of war, civil war or internal strife; to endeavour to ensure at all times that the military and civilian victims of such conflicts and of their direct results receive protection and assistance, and to serve, in humanitarian matters, as an intermediary between the parties;
- (e) to contribute, in view of such conflicts, to the preparation and development of medical personnel and medical equipment, in co-operation with the Red Cross organizations, the medical services of the armed forces, and other competent authorities;
- (f) to work for the continual improvement of humanitarian international law and for the better understanding and diffusion of the Geneva Conventions and to prepare for their possible extension;
- (g) to accept the mandates entrusted to it by the International Conferences of the Red Cross.

The ICRC may also take any humanitarian initiative which comes within its rôle as a specifically neutral and independent institution and consider any questions requiring examination by such an institution.

ART. 6 (first paragraph). — The ICRC shall co-opt its members from among Swiss citizens. The number of members may not exceed twenty-five.

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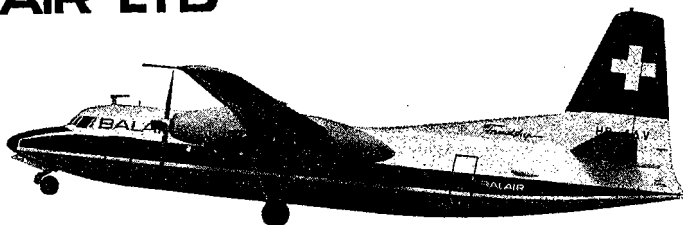
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ADDRESSES OF CENTRAL COMMITTEES

- AFGHANISTAN — Afghan Red Crescent, *Kabul*.
- ALBANIA — Albanian Red Cross, 35, *Briga Barrikadavet, Tirana*.
- ALGERIA — Central Committee of the Algerian Red Crescent Society, 15 bis Boulevard Mohamed V, *Algiers*.
- ARGENTINE — Argentine Red Cross, H. Yrigoyen 2068, *Buenos Aires*.
- AUSTRALIA — Australian Red Cross, 122-128 Flinders Street, *Melbourne, C. 1*.
- AUSTRIA — Austrian Red Cross, 3 Gusshausstrasse, Postfach 39, *Vienna IV*.
- BELGIUM — Belgian Red Cross, 98, Chaussée de Vleurgat, *Brussels 5*.
- BOLIVIA — Bolivian Red Cross, Avenida Simon-Bolivar, 1515 (Casilla 741), *La Paz*.
- BRAZIL — Brazilian Red Cross, Praça da Cruz Vermelha 10-12, *Rio de Janeiro*.
- BULGARIA — Bulgarian Red Cross, 1, Boul. S.S. Biruzov, *Sofia*.
- BURMA — Burma Red Cross, 42, Strand Road, Red Cross Building, *Rangoon*.
- BURUNDI — Red Cross Society of Burundi, rue du Marché 3, P.O. Box 1324, *Bujumbura*.
- CAMBODIA — Cambodian Red Cross, 17 R Vithei Croix-Rouge, P.O.B. 94, *Phnom-Penh*.
- CAMEROON — Central Committee of the Cameroon Red Cross Society, rue Henry-Dunant, P.O.B. 631, *Yaoundé*.
- CANADA — Canadian Red Cross, 95 Wellesley Street East, *Toronto 5*.
- CEYLON — Ceylon Red Cross, 106 Dharma-pala Mawatte, *Colombo VII*.
- CHILE — Chilean Red Cross, Avenida Santa Maria 0150, Casilla 246 V., *Santiago de Chile*.
- CHINA — Red Cross Society of China, 22 Kanmien Hutung, *Peking, E*.
- COLOMBIA — Colombian Red Cross, Carrera 7a, 34-65 Apartado nacional 1110, *Bogotá D.E.*
- CONGO — Red Cross of the Congo, 41, Avenue Valcke, P.O. Box 1712, *Kinshasa*.
- COSTA RICA — Costa Rican Red Cross, Calle 5a Apartado 1025, *San José*.
- CUBA — Cuban Red Cross, Calle Zulueta 471, *Havana*.
- CZECHOSLOVAKIA — Czechoslovak Red Cross, Thunovska 18, *Prague I*.
- DAHOMEY — Red Cross Society of Dahomey, P.O. Box 1, *Porto-Novo*.
- DENMARK — Danish Red Cross, Ny Vestergade 17, *Copenhagen K*.
- DOMINICAN REPUBLIC — Dominican Red Cross, Calle Galvan 24, Apartado 1293, *Santo Domingo*.
- ECUADOR — Ecuadorean Red Cross, Avenida Colombia y Elizalde 118, *Quito*.
- ETHIOPIA — Ethiopian Red Cross, Red Cross Road No. 1, P.O. Box 195, *Addis Ababa*.
- FINLAND — Finnish Red Cross, Tehtaankatu 1A, Box 14168, *Helsinki 14*.
- FRANCE — French Red Cross, 17, rue Quentin-Bauchart, *Paris (8°)*.
- GERMANY (Dem. Republic) — German Red Cross in the German Democratic Republic, Kaizerstrasse 2, *Dresden A. 1*.
- GERMANY (Federal Republic) — German Red Cross in the Federal Republic of Germany, Friedrich-Ebert-Allee 71, 5300 *Bonn 1*, Postfach (D.B.R.).
- GHANA — Ghana Red Cross, P.O. Box 835, *Accra*.
- GREAT BRITAIN — British Red Cross, 14 Grosvenor Crescent, *London, S.W.1*.
- GREECE — Hellenic Red Cross, rue Lycavittou 1, *Athens 135*.
- GUATEMALA — Guatemalan Red Cross, 3.° Calle 8-40 zona 1, *Guatemala C.A.*
- HAITI — Haiti Red Cross, rue Férou, *Port-au-Prince*.
- HONDURAS — Honduran Red Cross, Calle Henry Dunant 516, *Tegucigalpa*.
- HUNGARY — Hungarian Red Cross, Arany Janos utca 31, *Budapest V*.
- ICELAND — Icelandic Red Cross, Ølduggøtu 4, *Reykjavik*, Post Box 872.
- INDIA — Indian Red Cross, 1 Red Cross Road, *New Delhi 1*.
- INDONESIA — Indonesian Red Cross, Tanah Abang Barat 66, P.O. Box 2009, *Djakarta*.
- IRAN — Iranian Red Lion and Sun Society, Avenue Ark, *Teheran*.
- IRAQ — Iraqi Red Crescent, Al-Mansour, *Baghdad*.
- IRELAND — Irish Red Cross, 16 Merrion Square, *Dublin 2*.
- ITALY — Italian Red Cross, 12, via Toscana, *Rome*.
- IVORY COAST — Ivory Coast Red Cross Society, B.P. 1244, *Abidjan*.
- JAMAICA — Jamaica Red Cross Society, 76 Arnold Road, *Kingston 5*.
- JAPAN — Japanese Red Cross, 5 Shiba Park, Minato-Ku, *Tokyo*.
- JORDAN — Jordan Red Crescent, P.O. Box 1337, *Amman*.
- KENYA — Kenya Red Cross Society, St Johns Gate, P.O. Box 712, *Nairobi*.
- KOREA (Democratic Republic) — Red Cross Society of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, *Pyongyang*.
- KOREA (Republic) — The Republic of Korea National Red Cross, 32-3 Ka Nam San-Donk, *Seoul*.

ADDRESSES OF CENTRAL COMMITTEES

- LAOS — Lao Red Cross, P.B. 650, *Vientiane*.
- LEBANON — Lebanese Red Cross, rue Général Spears, *Beirut*.
- LIBERIA — Liberian National Red Cross, National Headquarters, Corner of Tubman boulevard and 9th Street Sinkor, P.O. Box 226, *Monrovia*.
- LIBYA — Libyan Red Crescent, Berka Omar Mukhtar Street, P.O. Box 541, *Benghazi*.
- LIECHTENSTEIN — Liechtenstein Red Cross, *Vaduz*.
- LUXEMBURG — Luxembourg Red Cross, Parc de la Ville, C.P. 234, *Luxembourg*.
- MADAGASCAR — Red Cross Society of Madagascar, rue Clemenceau, P.O. Box 1168, *Tananarive*.
- MALAYSIA — Malaysian Red Cross Society, 519 Jalan Belfield, *Kuala Lumpur*.
- MALI — Mali Red Cross, B.P. 280, route de Koulikora, *Bamako*.
- MEXICO — Mexican Red Cross, Avenida Ejercito Nacional, n° 1032 *Mexico* 10, D.F.
- MONACO — Red Cross of Monaco, 27 Boul. de Suisse, *Monte-Carlo*.
- MONGOLIA — Red Cross Society of the Mongolian People's Republic, Central Post Office, Post Box 537, *Ulan-Bator*.
- MOROCCO — Moroccan Red Crescent, rue Calmette, B.P. 189, *Rabat*.
- NEPAL — Nepal Red Cross Society, Tripureswore, P.B. 217, *Kathmandu*.
- NETHERLANDS — Netherlands Red Cross, 27 Prinsessegracht, *The Hague*.
- NEW ZEALAND — New Zealand Red Cross, 61 Dixon Street, P.O.B. 6073, *Wellington C.2*.
- NICARAGUA — Nicaraguan Red Cross, 12 Avenida Noroeste, *Managua*, D.N.
- NIGER — Red Cross Society of Niger, B.P. 386, *Niamey*.
- NIGERIA — Nigerian Red Cross Society, Eko Akete Close, off St. Gregory Rd., Onikan, P.O. Box 764, *Lagos*.
- NORWAY — Norwegian Red Cross, Parkveien 33b, *Oslo*.
- PAKISTAN — Pakistan Red Cross, Frere Street, *Karachi* 4.
- PANAMA — Panamanian Red Cross, Apartado 668, *Panama*.
- PARAGUAY — Paraguayan Red Cross, calle André Barbero y Artigas 33, *Asunción*.
- PERU — Peruvian Red Cross, Jiron Chancay 881, *Lima*.
- PHILIPPINES — Philippine National Red Cross, 860 United Nations Avenue, P.O.B. 280, *Manila*.
- POLAND — Polish Red Cross, Mokotowska 14, *Warsaw*.
- PORTUGAL — Portuguese Red Cross, General Secretaryship, Jardim 9 de Abril, 1 a 5, *Lisbon* 3.
- RUMANIA — Red Cross of the Rumanian Socialist Republic, Strada Biserica Amzei 29, *Bucarest*.
- SALVADOR — Salvador Red Cross, 3a Avenida Norte y 3a Calle Poniente 21, *San Salvador*.
- SAN MARINO — San Marino Red Cross, Palais gouvernemental, *San Marino*.
- SAUDI ARABIA — Saudi Arabian Red Crescent, *Riyadh*.
- SENEGAL — Senegalese Red Cross Society, Bld. Franklin-Roosevelt, P.O.B. 299, *Dakar*.
- SIERRA LEONE — Sierra Leone Red Cross Society, 6 Liverpool Street, P.O.B. 427, *Freetown*.
- SOUTH AFRICA — South African Red Cross, Cor. Kruis & Market Streets, P.O.B. 8726, *Johannesburg*.
- SPAIN — Spanish Red Cross, Eduardo Dato 16, *Madrid*, 10.
- SUDAN — Sudanese Red Crescent, P.O. Box 235, *Khartoum*.
- SWEDEN — Swedish Red Cross, Artillerigatan 6, *Stockholm* 14.
- SWITZERLAND — Swiss Red Cross, Taubenstrasse 8, B.P. 2699, 3001 *Berne*.
- SYRIA — Syrian Red Crescent, 13, rue Abi-Ala-Almaari, *Damascus*.
- TANZANIA — Tanzania Red Cross Society, Upanga Road, P.O.B. 1133, *Dar es Salaam*.
- THAILAND — Thai Red Cross Society, King Chulalongkorn Memorial Hospital, *Bangkok*.
- TOGO — Togolese Red Cross Society, Avenue des Alliés 19, P.O. Box 655, *Lomé*.
- TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO — Trinidad and Tobago Red Cross Society, 48 Pembroke Street, P.O. Box 357, *Port of Spain*.
- TUNISIA — Tunisian Red Crescent, 19, rue d'Angleterre, *Tunis*.
- TURKEY — Turkish Red Crescent, Yenisehir, *Ankara*.
- UGANDA — Uganda Red Cross, 17 Jinja Road P.O. Box 494, *Kampala*.
- UNITED ARAB REPUBLIC — Red Crescent Society of the United Arab Republic, 34, rue Ramses, *Cairo*.
- UPPER VOLTA — Upper Volta Red Cross, P.O.B. 340, *Ouagadougou*.
- URUGUAY — Uruguayan Red Cross, Avenida 8 de Octubre, 2990, *Montevideo*.
- U.S.A. — American National Red Cross, 17th and D Streets, N.W., *Washington* 6 D.C.
- U.S.S.R. — Alliance of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, Tcheremushki, J. Tcheremushkinskii proezd 5, *Moscow W-36*.
- VENEZUELA — Venezuelan Red Cross, Avenida Andrés Bello No. 4, Apart. 3185, *Caracas*.
- VIET NAM (Democratic Republic) — Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, 68, rue Bà-Triết, *Hanoi*.
- VIET NAM (Republic) — Red Cross of the Republic of Viet Nam, 201, đường Hồng-Thập-Tu, No. 201, *Saigon*.
- YUGOSLAVIA — Yugoslav Red Cross, Simina ulica broj 19, *Belgrade*.
- ZAMBIA — Zambia Red Cross, P.O. Box R. W. 1, Ridgeway, *Lusaka*.